March 8, 2021

Senator Todd Kaminsky  
Legislative Office Building Room 307  
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Kaminsky:

The US Composting Council (USCC) has become aware of SB1185 to provide funding to the recycling industry via Extended Producer Responsibility. We support this effort but request the bill be amended to stipulate that EPR fees on compostable packaging be dedicated to funding composting infrastructure.

The USCC was established in 1990 and has a membership of 800 organizations representing more than 2,500 individuals. Our mission is to advance compost manufacturing, compost utilization, and organics recycling to benefit our members, society, and the environment.

Expanding infrastructure has been one of our biggest challenges, to date, in keeping up with the growing compostable products industry. Funding is cited by our members as one of the top obstacles to successfully opening – and expanding to food scrap acceptance—compost facilities across the country, so that less than 10% of Americans, including many New Yorkers, are not near a compost facility or pickup program. States with vigorous grant programs for compost facilities have seen the industry – and access – develop.

Organics recycling infrastructure and programs should be the recipient of funds collected from fees on compostable products under the auspices of SB1185. There is no more seamless, and local, way of closing the loop than recycling food scrap and organics into the useable, beneficial compost produce we provide.

Additionally, as the “traditional” recycling industry has faltered and consumers have pushed back on single-use plastics, many manufacturers are increasing turning to compostable products, making our challenge to build infrastructure and our collectors and municipalities to fund education programs even bigger. Funding for this would allow the compost industry, which has watched and learned from the traditional recycling industry, to address potential contamination as we grow.

Please include compost infrastructure funding connected to collection of fees from compostable products as an amendment to SB1185, and we would be delighted to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Frank Franciosi, Executive Director

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